



Pro Parks

Report to Citizens

2006 Annual Newsletter Pro Parks Levy



Recreation



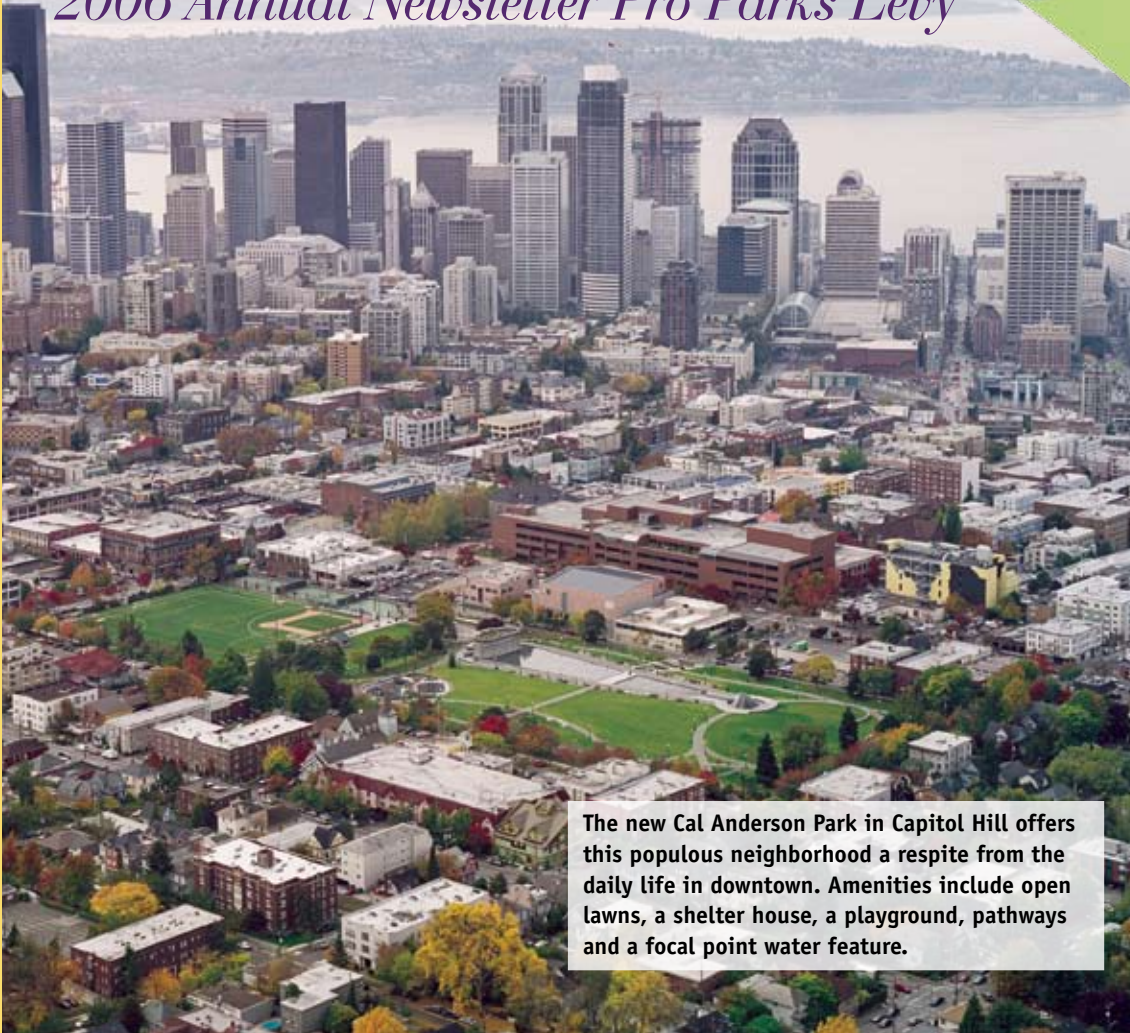
Water Feature



Playground



Open Lawns



The new Cal Anderson Park in Capitol Hill offers this populous neighborhood a respite from the daily life in downtown. Amenities include open lawns, a shelter house, a playground, pathways and a focal point water feature.

Mayor's Message

Very few civic amenities create a sense of community in the way that public parks do. Our Pro Parks Levy, voter approved in 2000, supports families and neighborhoods by enhancing maintenance to keep our parks cleaner, creating better programming for children, teens and older adults, adding new acreage to preserve green spaces, and building new parks and renovating existing ones.

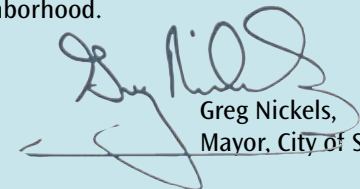
In the past year, we opened several important public spaces.

In densely populated Capitol Hill, we opened the new Cal Anderson Park. This unique space was completely transformed by covering the Lincoln Reservoir, which opened up four new acres of park space.

In the Eastlake neighborhood, we partnered with the Washington State Department of Transportation to develop the I-5 Colonnade under a portion of the interstate. Today, this space is a 7.5-acre park with a dog off-leash area, public art, and a soon to be opened one-of-a-kind mountain bike course with pedestrian connections and dramatic views of Lake Union.

We broke ground on a new park in Northgate. Northgate Park will be co-located with a community center and a branch library, creating an anchor and a gathering place in Northgate. We're on track to open this new facility in 2006.

We're working to complete projects like these all over the city in 2006, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next park opening celebration in your neighborhood.


Greg Nickels,
Mayor, City of Seattle



A Message from the Superintendent

In 2005, we accomplished some important milestones in the Pro Parks Levy.

We allocated the remaining \$4 million of the \$10 million Opportunity Fund, supporting 18 new development projects and two new acquisitions.

Through private giving, our partners at the Seattle Parks Foundation have raised 60 percent of the construction costs for South Lake Union Park. The fund raising will augment \$5 million from the Pro Parks Levy for the park's development.

In addition, Levy funds helped us purchase a total of 39 new acres of park land to date.

Each year of the Levy we build more parks, acquire new ones, and find innovative ways to make the most of the parks we already have.

Our employees and partners are always on the lookout for creative ways to leverage our resources. In this newsletter, you'll read about Chris Jewell, whose creative foresight has already saved the taxpayers almost \$1 million.

As always, we couldn't do this great work without you — the citizens of Seattle.

We have completed or are in the process of conducting public involvement processes on 93 projects in the first five years of the Levy. We're more than half-way through, but there's still time to get involved.

Community-based support is at the heart of a successful Levy. Our partnership with you, the citizens, has gone a long way toward making Seattle a better place to live. We appreciate your support, and look forward to more great projects and programming.



Ken Bounds
Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent

Making the Most of Our Levy



Recycling soil saves big

Chris Jewell, Construction Manager for Parks' Planning and Development Division, is on a mission: spend less on buying and disposing of soils. His efforts have been wildly fruitful. Parks has avoided huge dirt disposal costs and acquired needed fill dirt from other projects — together saving almost \$1 million in construction-related expenses.

- ◆ For the Warren G. Magnuson Park Sports Meadow, more than 18,000 yards of fill were delivered from the nearby Children's Hospital expansion, saving \$600,000 in fill costs.
- ◆ The 7,000 yards removed in the daylighting of Ravenna Creek were tested, screened and fortified with compost. It was then taken to the Warren G. Magnuson Park Northshore project, Smith Cove Playfield renovation and the Ballard Commons Park development.
- ◆ From Cascade Park, another 2,000 yards of fill were tested and moved to Smith Cove. With the savings, we were able to upgrade lighting at the park.
- ◆ 300 yards of fill material from Homer Harris Park were used to level a meadow area near Cheasty Boulevard.

Pro Parks Levy projects and Seattle residents win all around. We have better parks; we have avoided thousands of truck miles, and we all breathe easier.

Looking ahead:

- ◆ Jefferson Reservoir — 200,000 yards of fill material



Chris Jewell secured \$600,000 in free fill dirt from a Children's Hospital expansion project for the Warren G. Magnuson Park Sports Meadow project.

may be provided by outside construction contractors to fill the decommissioned Beacon Reservoir, avoiding more than \$1 million in costs.

- ◆ The commissary building at Warren G. Magnuson Park: deconstruction and salvage of building materials will save well over \$100,000 and divert timber resources into other building projects.

Erin Devoto, Director of Planning and Development, comments "Chris' eye for these efficiencies is a benefit of his many years in the private sector; we are truly lucky to have him working for Seattle Parks."

Seattle Parks Foundation

The Seattle Parks Foundation is a private nonprofit that supports Seattle Parks and Recreation. In 2005, the Foundation partnered with Parks and the community on several terrific Pro Parks Levy funded projects.

At South Lake Union, the Foundation will augment \$5 million in Levy funds with \$20 million in private contributions to develop this park. In Lower Queen Anne, the design for Uptown Park is taking shape. A lead gift of \$225,000 — secured by the Foundation — from local merchant Raj Shah is helping fund development of this Pro Parks Levy project.



Levy funds mean that extra staff are available to react when weather conditions warrant emergency maintenance. At Dr. Blanche Lavizzo Park, maintenance personnel clear a drain during a heavy rainstorm.

Woodland Park Zoo

The Pro Parks Levy was again instrumental in funding a number of programs, projects and staff positions at Woodland Park Zoo in 2005. The School-to-Zoo program reached 6,000 school children from low-income families by providing free admission tickets and transportation. Levy funds supported Wild Wise, Forest Explorers and Zoo Corps programs, reaching 40,000 additional children.

An array of Levy-funded maintenance projects also made a difference. The Zoo opened Willawong Station, an interactive bird aviary; installed waterless urinals throughout the Zoo; began improvements to facilities shops, and made improvements to several animal exhibits.

The Zoo improved technology by upgrading hardware and software, and adding a T-1 Internet connection. On www.zoo.org, a zoo tour video is now offered, with new navigation and design.



The Levy provides funding for creative and educational programming at the Zoo.

Levy provides increased and better programming

Pro Parks Levy funded programs are organized into three divisions with a total of 14 unique areas intended to improve the awareness of our environment, expand or enhance park maintenance, and offer education or recreation.

Environmental Stewardship

1. The Environmental Stewardship unit led Parks staff to reduce overall paper use by 11 percent and provided external education opportunities for citizens.
2. Tree Maintenance crews completed 598 tree maintenance projects, including the removal of 48 hazardous trees.
3. The Natural Area Crew led 93 volunteer projects, resulting in the removal of 2.6 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds.
4. The Landscape and Athletic Fields crews have completed 56 athletic field enhancement projects, 86 landscape enhancement projects and 13 volunteer projects.

Enhanced Maintenance

5. Peak Use Maintenance and Comfort Station Cleaning programs mean that 87 comfort stations got a second cleaning daily during the peak use season.
6. The Cleaner Pools program provided 4,031 hours of supplemental swimming pool cleaning.
7. Cleaner Community Centers meant almost 4,500 hours of extra hours custodial service focused on the 13 most heavily used centers.

Recreation Programs

8. Teen Development has provided successful outreach to more than 5,000 teens, offering programs and strategies that increase developmental assets, life skills and leadership.
9. Kids Program Access provided financial assistance to 351 needy children through scholarships to before- and after-school care.
10. The Youth Teen Development Fund has built partnerships by awarding 17 matching grants totaling \$150,000 with matching contributions of more than \$175,000.

11. The Youth Transportation Program assures access to vans, buses, ferries and trains, encouraging children to visit parks, attend events and go on field trips. More than 23,000 transports were supplied.
12. Levy funding provided almost 2,000 additional hours of operation for 11 selected wading pools where daily attendance exceeded 60 people at each site.
13. In partnership with Seattle Public Schools, the Learn to Swim program provides free instruction for children in grades 3 and 4, which resulted in almost 13,000 lessons.
14. Senior Adult Program funding provides equipment and staff to increase programming for citizens 55 and better across the city with more than 26,000 hours of direct service provided.

Developing Our System



A \$1.1 million eco-renovation at Cascade Playground revitalized a run-down park in the center of the rapidly developing South Lake Union neighborhood. Partners Vulcan Inc., PEMCO Insurance and Harbor Properties donated a combined \$600,000 to supplement the \$500,000 in Pro Parks Levy funds.

Mayor Greg Nickels' Priorities for Seattle

- ◆ Get Seattle Moving
- ◆ Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe
- ◆ Create Jobs and Opportunity For All
- ◆ Build Strong Families and Healthy Communities

Completed Projects in 2005

1. Ballard Commons
2. Cal Anderson Park/Lincoln Reservoir
3. Carkeek Park
4. Cascade Playground
5. Colman School Parking Lot
6. Homer Harris Park
7. I-5 Colonnade
8. Lake City Civic Core
9. Lake City Mini Park
10. Mapes Creek Walkway — Opportunity Fund
11. Plymouth Pillars Park
12. Southwest Community Center Computer Lab
13. Southwest Community Center Teen Center
14. York Park

The Levy includes \$102 million over its eight-year life for 95 named projects that will improve parks and park facilities, create new parks on undeveloped sites, restore wetlands, enhance buildings, and improve ballfields and trails. During the first five years of the Levy, 86 projects were started and 49 completed. Our projects are on schedule and within budget.

The Big Picture: A Funding Overview

For this Levy, funds are collected and expenditures are made every year throughout its eight-year life.

Acquisition

Neighborhood Park Acquisition	\$16 million
Greenspace Acquisition	\$10 million
Total	\$26 million

Development

Neighborhood Parks	\$52.8 million
Major Neighborhood Parks	\$23.1 million
Playfields and Facilities	\$17.9 million
Trails	\$9.0 million
Total	\$102.8 million

Acquisition & Development

Opportunity Fund	\$10 million
------------------------	--------------

Environmental Stewardship, Maintenance and Programming

New Park/Green Space Maintenance	\$7.6 million
Environmental Stewardship	\$9.7 million
Enhanced Park & Facility Maintenance	\$5.3 million
Recreational Programming	\$16.9 million
Zoo Programming	\$21.8 million
Total	\$61.3 million

Use of Funds Total	\$200.2 million
--------------------------	-----------------

Projected Funding Sources

Levy proceeds	\$198.2 million
Interest earnings	\$2 million

Adding to the Legacy



The Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee toured the Haller Lake Street End project, which received \$150,000 grant from the Opportunity Fund.

Levy Oversight Committee

Russ Brubaker
Alan Alabastro
Don Harper
Cheryl Klinker
Terry Holme
Jeff Hou
Lisa Chun
Sharon Lee
Joyce Moty
Alec Stephens, Jr.
Philippe Jeoffroy
Neal Adams
Doug Dunham

Levy Opportunity Fund

The Levy included a \$10 million Opportunity Fund for unforeseen development projects and land acquisition opportunities. The \$6 million first cycle of the Opportunity Fund included park development projects resulting in new parks in Columbia City, Belltown, the Rainier Valley and North Seattle, and acquisitions for new parks in Fremont, Pinehurst, West Seattle, Mount Baker and Maple Leaf.

In 2005, the Levy Oversight Committee completed its selection process for the \$4 million second cycle of the Opportunity Fund. Selection criteria included a focus on underserved neighborhoods that are experiencing growth, particularly in City-designated urban villages and revitalization areas. The Committee's recommendations were unanimously approved by the Superintendent, Mayor and City Council.

* Develop sites to be acquired to be developed through first cycle, or supplement acquisition if needed

Second round Opportunity Fund

Development Projects

Amy Yee Tennis Center
Ballard Pocket Park
Brighton Playfield and Science Park
Cascade People's Center
Cesar Chavez Park
Denny Triangle*
Ercolini Property
Fremont Peak Park
Haller Lake Community Street End
International District/Pioneer Square*
Junction Plaza
Maple Leaf Community Garden
Marra Farm Community Project
Mount Baker Ridge Viewpoint
Pinehurst Pocket Park
Powell Barnett Legacy Project
University District*
Van Asselt Play Area

Acquisition Projects

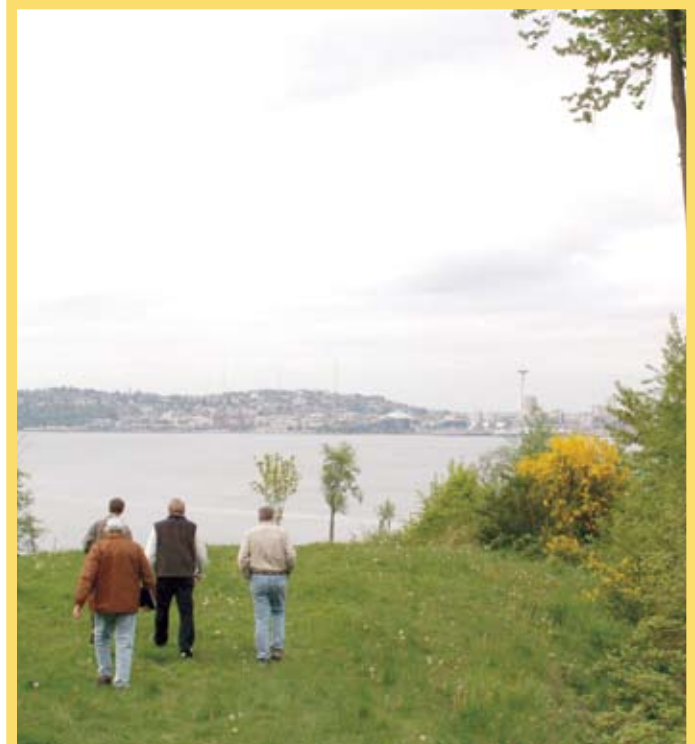
12th Avenue Village Gathering Place
International District Chinatown
Community Center expansion

Acquiring new parks

A key focus of the Levy is purchasing land for new parks and preserving green space and wildlife habitat.

To date, 39 acres have been acquired through the Levy, including the following properties in 2005:

- ◆ Three properties for new neighborhood parks in West Seattle, including a site in the heart of the West Seattle Junction
- ◆ Kiwanis Ravine: .5-acre adjacent to the city's largest great blue heron colony
- ◆ Duwamish Head Greenbelt: .5-acre property with panoramic views of Elliott Bay and downtown Seattle, adjacent to an eagle's nest
- ◆ East Duwamish Greenbelt: .7-acre site donated and .3-acre purchased in Southeast Seattle
- ◆ Delridge: 1.8 acres along Longfellow Creek and Puget Creek



In 2005, Parks acquired property in the Duwamish Head Greenbelt with panoramic views of downtown Seattle.

Getting Involved



The artwork *The Seventh Climate (Paradise Reconsidered)* emerges from the interaction of six simple elements that spin a dramatic physical experience under the freeway.

1% for Art

In 2002, the Pro Parks Art Plan initiated a collection of legacy public art projects for a group of Seattle parks over the Levy period.

The vision of the Art Plan is for artists to design imaginative places within specific parks that enhance the community's opportunities to relate to the natural world. The goal for the art is to establish distinctive perspectives and/or interactive possibilities that engage park visitors in each park's unique surroundings.

In 2005, the fourth artwork was completed for the I-5 Colonnade Park in the Eastlake neighborhood. Artist John Roloff approached this dramatic site with creative verve. In the heart of the park, his artwork *The Seventh Climate (Paradise Reconsidered)* creates a simulation of the climate in the 1960s — the last year before the freeway was built and forever blocked the natural weather in this spot.

Getting involved

Community participation is at the heart of the successful implementation of the Pro Parks Levy. To date, we've completed, or are in the process of conducting, public involvement plans for 96 projects.

Parks staff are focused on conducting fair, thoughtful and balanced involvement, with an emphasis on outreach to residents that have traditionally not participated in park planning, including English-as-a-second-language citizens, immigrants and first generation Americans.

Our public involvement plans focus on answering the needs of the community, staying within the allocated budget and schedule, and implementing sustainable features whenever possible.

To become involved, please visit our website at:
www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks.

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor, City of Seattle

Kenneth R. Bounds, Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Erin Devoto, Director, Parks Planning and Development

Donald Harris, Manager, Parks Acquisition

Michael Shiosaki, Manager, Pro Parks Levy Development



800 Maynard Ave. S., 3rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98134-1336

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT NO 900